

and the whole of eastern India. The birds were seen in open water and observed for about 10 minutes.

According to the HANDBOOK OF BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN (Ali, S. and Ripley, S.D. 1983), the blacknecked grebe is an uncommon winter visitor

to the Indian subcontinent, with just a few sporadic records from Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. The sighting is therefore the new easternmost locality for this species in the subcontinent.

January 19, 1991

A. CHOUDHURY

4. RECOVERY OF A RUSSIAN-RINGED ROSY (WHITE) PELICAN *PELECANUS ONOCROTALUS* LINN. IN KUTCH, GUJARAT

On 10 November 1989, Alimamad Manjothi, Range Forester, saw a large dead bird in Medisar Rakhal (23°22' N, 69°30' E) near Niruna village of Bhuj taluka, Kutch, Gujarat. It had a ring on one leg bearing no. Moskwa KK 2398 which is at present with Forest Division, Bhuj. The bird was identified by M.K. Himmatsinhji as an immature white (rosy) pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* Linn.

On enquiry with the ICBP/IWRB Pelican Research Group we found that the bird was a rosy pelican ringed as a pullet on 29 July 1989 at the Ily delta in the lake Balkash area (45°22' N, 74°

08' E), former U.S.S.R. This would mean that the young bird had flown a distance of at least 2800 km within three months 12 days.

The rosy pelican is partly resident and was first recorded breeding in the Great Rann of Kutch in 1960 (Ali, S., *JBNHS* 57: 414). It is mainly a winter visitor to Pakistan (Sind, Baluchistan) and northern India from Punjab to Assam (Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Kutch, Saurashtra, north Gujarat, Andhra (Visakhapatnam) and Madras?).

November 8, 1990

S.N. VARU
M.B. KHATRI

5. POND HERON *ARDEOLA GRAYII* (SYKES) FEEDING ON BEES

While watching birds on the morning of 30 December 1990, close to Lalbagh Tank (12°57' N, 77°35' E) in Bangalore, we were attracted to four Indian pond herons *Ardeola grayii* perched on top of a 7 m tall Indian willow tree *Salix tetrasperma* Roxb., growing close to the tank edge. The willow tree was in full bloom and many small bees *Trigona leviseps* and rock bees *Apis dorsata* (Apidae : Hymenoptera) were observed visiting the willow flowers. The pond herons, perched precariously on the small end-branches close to the flowers, snapped their beaks at and swallowed

every small bee that came within striking distance. Surprisingly, the herons were not observed capturing the rock bees.

Pond herons are chiefly ground foragers and are known to feed on animal matter mainly aquatic in nature (HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN, Ali, S. and Ripley, S.D. 1987). The present observation of peculiar arboreal behaviour and diet of the bird is therefore of interest.

February 14, 1991

J.N. PRASAD
J. HEMANTH

6. PAINTED STORK *MYCTERIA LEUCOCEPHALA* (PENNANT) IN KERALA

On a visit to the Periyar Tiger Reserve in Kerala in October 1990, I observed a painted stork *Mycteria leucocephala* (Pennant) there on the 19th afternoon, feeding alongside a pair of whitenecked storks *Ciconia episcopus* at the edge of the Periyar reservoir. This was not far from the Edapalayam watch tower, by boat. I saw a solitary painted stork, presumably the same individual, on three other occasions during the next two days.

opposite the boat landing at Thekkady, again with whitenecked storks. That afternoon it was standing on one of the dead trees in the reservoir, off the Edapalayam landing. On the morning of 21 October it was back at the Thekkady boat landing, with a group of whitenecked storks. This sighting is the second record of the painted stork for Kerala.

On the morning after the first sighting, it was

March 7, 1991

KUMARAN SATHASIVAM